Dear FCC,
First, I appreciate the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) extending the time for comments on the Engineering and Technology Notice of Inquiry Docket No. 03-104 regarding Carrier Current Systems, including Broadband over Power Line (BPL) Systems to August 20, 2003.

As a licensed amateur radio operator, FCC call sign AA5VU, I am very concerned with the spectrum pollution (interference) associated with the new broadband over power line technology the FCC is considering for approval for use by the power line industry.

The industry plans to use a form of power line carrier (PLC) technology using existing low and medium-voltage power lines to deliver broadband (internet) services to homes and businesses. It uses frequencies between 2 MHz and 80 MHz; and ARRL laboratory and in field tests have documented that BPL causes interference (spectrum pollution) to HF and low-VHF frequencies currently in use by the Government (Department of Defense and Homeland Security), law enforcement agencies, amateur radio and commercial businesses. Further, the current BPL technology itself may be susceptible to transmissions from other existing services.

To appreciate the level of interference, please visit the ARRL web page at [http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2003/08/08/2/?nc=1] and listen to the BPL interference recorded from one of the FCC test sites. To me it sounds like a strong Geiger counter sound jamming the frequency band such that normal signals can not be received. Contrary to power industry claims, the ARRL tests convinced me the current BPL technology will generate major interference to existing services, including amateur radio. The ARRL President, Mr. Jim Haynie is prepared to provide the FCC with more details. He can be reached at 214-366-9400 or w5jbp@arrl.org

Regarding the FCC Notice of Inquiry ET Docket No. 03-104, I recommend tightening of the FCC Part 15 requirements and/or standards for power line carrier (PLC) devices to assure they will not cause interference (or be susceptible from) to existing services. In addition, I would appreciate documentation from the FCC that adequate testing has been performed to assure broadband over power line technology will not cause interference to existing services. Hopefully, this testing will be well documented and made public before the technology is approved for use by the power line industry.

I sincerely hope the power line industry discovers a technical solution to the BPL interference issue so we can all enjoy the benefits of having broadband internet to our home via power lines.

FCC support to my comments for consideration will be appreciated.

Regards

Richard M. Kriss, AA5VU